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CMA Applauds Blackmores for Independent Research Support

Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) applauds well-known industry player, Blackmores, and Marcus Blackmore, for supporting independent complementary medicines research via a funding gift totalling \$10 million to Western Sydney University's National Institute of Complementary Medicine.

Chief executive officer of CMA, Mr Carl Gibson, said that it was commendable to see Blackmores donating untied funds to support research and innovation in complementary medicine.

"We have a well-developed complementary medicine research sector; however, it is insufficiently supported given that complementary medicines are an important, and often underestimated, part of the Australian health system. A very large proportion of the Australian population, approximately 70 per cent, use complementary medicines."

"Given the potential benefits of complementary medicine as a tool towards health promotion and disease prevention, complementary medicine research needs to be a priority area for research funding. In this context, the importance of research support, such as this gift from Blackmores, cannot be stressed enough," said Mr Gibson.

For every dollar invested in Australian health research and development, \$2.17 in health benefits is returned.ⁱ Potential gains also include costs avoided due to less people using the health care system, and indirect gains such as productivity gains, avoided carer costs, welfare and disability costs, and foregone taxation revenues.ⁱⁱ

"An innovative complementary medicines industry is dependent on research to support quality, safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. This donation from Blackmores highlights the willingness of industry to support research to continue to grow the body of evidence for complementary medicines and contribute to a healthy Australia."

ENDS

ⁱ Access Economics. (2008). Exceptional Returns: The Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia.

ⁱⁱ Deloitte Access Economics (2011). Returns on NHMRC funded Research and Development, Australian Society for Medical Research.

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